Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying and updating television schedule information data in a television schedule information transmission system having a central data processing system and a plurality of subscriber systems, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving via a television telecast signal commands that instruct the plurality of subscriber systems and which include command data and the television schedule information data used by the commands;

responsive to receiving a command, reading the command data from the command to determine the instructions of the command;

responsive to the ~~commands~~ command instructions, extracting a portion of the television schedule information data included in the command from the television telecast signal;

responsive to the command instructions, storing the portion of the television schedule information data in a memory at the plurality of subscriber systems;

responsive to the ~~commands~~ command instructions, preparing portions of the television schedule information data; and

displaying the portions of the television schedule information data on a display monitor.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the television schedule information data is received by a subscriber system if the commands are addressed to that subscriber system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein a batch number as part of a command is used as a group address to send the command to at least one subscriber system sharing the same batch number.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~one of the commands is~~ the command instructions contain an authorization command authorizing the subscriber

system to begin collecting and displaying the television schedule information data.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the commands received is private to at least one of the subscriber systems.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the television schedule information data is received in the blanking interval of the television telecast signal.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving step comprises the step of decrypting an encrypted ~~instruction~~ command.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the preparing step comprises the steps of:

executing at least one command instruction of the ~~received commands~~ command;

determining if certain of the television schedule information has already been received by the subscriber system; and

receiving the certain of the television schedule information if it has not already been received.

9. (Currently Ameded) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a daylight change command instruction defining when a next daylight change will occur; and

adding a time-zone offset to a local time to show the correct adjusted local time when the next daylight change occurs.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the preparing step comprises the steps of:

receiving a command including channel ID numbers and television scheduling information;

matching the received channel ID numbers to a list of channel ID numbers stored in the memory representing the valid channels in the subscriber system; and

compiling the television scheduling information on the channels for which the channel ID number in the list stored in the memory representing the valid channel matches that of the received channel ID number.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second command providing at least 24 hours of television scheduling information data.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a show title command containing a name of a television program;

comparing the name of the television program to a show list maintained in the memory;

saving the show title command in the database if there is a match between the name of the television program and any entry in the show list; and

ignoring the show title command in the memory if there is not a match between the name of the television program and any entry in the show list.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the name of a television program is compressed text.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises the steps of:

periodically running a garbage collection process to collect unused memory blocks;

recombining the unused memory blocks into larger memory blocks; and

making the larger memory blocks accessible by the computer program.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the television schedule information data is stored in a database as database items in the memory.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the database items are arranged hierarchically in descending order as a list of channels and a list of show titles, show description, show start time and show durations for each channel.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the database items are further arranged hierarchically in descending order as a theme table defining theme categories, theme sub-table defining theme sub-categories, and theme show table defining themes of a selected list of shows.

18. (Currently Amended) A system for displaying and updating television schedule information data in a subscriber system included in a television schedule information transmission system having a central data processing system and a plurality of subscriber systems, comprising of:

a microprocessor at each of the plurality of subscriber systems;

a decoder at each of the plurality of subscriber systems for receiving via a television telecast signal commands that instruct the microprocessor and which include command data and the television schedule information data used by the commands;

means for reading the command data from a command to determine the instructions of the command responsive to receiving the command;

means for extracting at least a portion of the television schedule information data included in the command from the television telecast signal responsive to the ~~commands~~ command instructions;

a memory for storing the at least a portion of the television schedule information data responsive to the command instructions;

code for the microprocessor for preparing portions of the television schedule information data responsive to the ~~commands~~ command instructions; and

a display for displaying the portions of the television schedule information data on the display monitor.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the television schedule information data is received by a subscriber system if the commands are directed to that subscriber system.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 19, further comprising a batch number as part of a command for a group address to direct the command to at least one subscriber system sharing the same batch number.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein ~~one of the received commands is~~ the command instructions contain an authorization command authorizing the subscriber system to begin collecting and displaying the television schedule information data.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein at least one of the commands received is private to at least one of the subscriber system.

23. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the television schedule information data is received in the blanking interval of the television telecast signal.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein at least one of the received commands is an encrypted command.